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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 01558

USEEC

E.O. 12065: N/A
DATES: EEC, EP, PHNS, PERP, EAGR
SUBJ: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
DEBATED AFGHANISTAN

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 901, (B) BRUSSELS 939

1. SUMMARY: AT PUBLIC MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S
POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, JENKINS REVIEWED THE ACTIONS
TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION AGAINST THE USSR AND STRONGLY
SUPPORTED U.S. HE ANTICIPATED NO FURTHER EXPORTS TO USSR
IN NEAR FUTURE. EURO-MPS REACTION WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE,
ALTHOUGH SOME QUESTIONED WISDOM OF ALYING EC POLICY
"TOO CLOSELY" TO THAT OF U.S. GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT
EUROPE SHOULD DEVELOP ITS OWN POLICY WHICH PURSUES DETENTE
BUT MAKES CLEAR TO SOVIETS THAT PRESENT BREAK RESTS ON
THEIR SHOULDERS. MEETING BROUGHT OUT EURO-MPS
FRUSTRATION OVER COMMUNITY'S LIMITED CAPACITY TO ACT AS A
COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A FORCEFUL STATEMENT TO EP'S POLITICAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS JANUARY 31, EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT
JENKINS REVIEWED THE STEPS TAKEN BY THE EC IN RESPONSE
TO THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN. JENKINS REMINDED
THE EURO-MPS THAT UNLIKE THE US-USSR GRAIN ACCORD, THE
EC DOES NOT HAVE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH CAN SERVE
AS A "BENCHMARK." EC EXPORTS, HE SAID, INCLUDE SEVERAL
DIFFERENT CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS WHOSE VOLUME HAS
VARIED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT
THE COMMISSION HAS THE NECESSARY INSTRUMENTS TO MONITOR EC
EXPORTS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND TO KEEP THEM WITHIN
LIMITS. THESE "ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES WILL BE KEPT
UNDER REVIEW AND ADAPTED AS THE SITUATION DEMANDS." HE
EMPHASIZED THAT UNTIL THE SOVIET AGGRESSION IN
AFGHANISTAN IS ENDED, EC EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
TO THE USSR WILL NOT EXCEED WHAT WE JUDGE TO BE
TRADITIONAL QUANTITIES. IN NO CASE WILL THERE BE LARGE
EXPORT DEALS AT SPECIAL PRICES OF THE TYPE WHICH HAPPENED
IN 1973, AND THE EC WILL ENSURE THAT SALES ARE MADE IN
CONTROLLED QUANTITIES AND AT REALISTIC PRICES." HE ALSO
NOTED THERE "WILL NO LONGER BE EXPORT RESTITUTIONS
FOR FRESH BUTTER TO THE USSR, BUT A SYSTEM OF EXPORT
TENDERS FOR STOCKPILE BUTTER." HE ANTICIPATED "NO EXPORTS
OF BUTTER TO THE SOVIET UNION IN THE NEAR FUTURE."
(COMMENT: RESTITUTIONS ON EXPORTS TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE
ALSO TO BE ELIMINATED.)

3. REFERRING TO HIS RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER
AND OTHER US OFFICIALS, JENKINS NOTED THAT THE US
"EXPRESSED SATISFACTION" WITH EC ACTIONS SO FAR, BUT ALSO
THAT IT CONSIDER FURTHER STEPS, NOTABLY IN "GRANTING
OF OFFICIAL EXPORT CREDITS." ON LICENSING OF HIGH

TECHNOLOGY EXPORTS, JENKINS SAID THE COMMISSION WAS
WAITING FOR THE US POSITION TO SEE IF THE SANCTIONING WILL
BE CONFINED TO EXPORTS OUT ON THE SOVIET LIST OR WOULD BE
EXTENDED. JENKINS FURTHER OBSERVED THAT THE US
"NATURALLY LOOKS TO THE EC FOR POLITICAL, MORAL AND
PRACTICAL SUPPORT." HE ADDED THAT "UNLIKE CHARGING THE SAME
VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE USSR ACTION, THE EC
NEVERTHELESS HAS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW WHEN
IT COMES TO THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF SOME ASPECTS OF
OUR POLICY." IN THIS CONTEXT, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE EC
WAS REEVALUATING ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THIRD WORLD
COUNTRIES WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THEIR ABILITY
TO MEET THE SOVIET CHALLENGE. HE CITED TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA,
ASIAN AND INDIA AND PAKISTAN AS PRIME AREAS WHERE EC
COOPERATION SHOULD BE REINFORCED. HE CONCLUDED BY
SAYING THE EC NEEDED (A) COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY AND
COHESION; (B) NOT TO ALLOW A WEDGE TO BE DRIVEN BETWEEN
THE EC AND THE US; AND (C) NOT TO LET THE SOVIET UNION
BELIEVE THINGS WILL NOT CHANGE BUT TO "MAKE IT CLEAR THAT
ECONOMIC COOPERATION DEPENDS ON MUTUAL CONFIDENCE, WHICH
THEIR ACTION UNDERMINED."

4. IN GENERAL, THE EURO-MPS SUPPORTED THE STAND TAKEN
BY THE COMMISSION BUT OFFERED ON ITS ADEQUATENESS.
SPEAKING FOR THE SOCIALISTS, WILLY BRANDT TENDED TO BE
SKEPTICAL OF THE EFFICACY OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS,
PARTICULARLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, AS WAS
DELAHAYE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE QUALIISTS. EXCEPT
FOR THE FRENCH COMMUNIST MP WHO HERELY REITERATED HIS
PARTY'S POSITION, ALL SPEAKERS AGAIN CONDEMNED THE
AGGRESSION AND URGED A REINFORCEMENT OF THE EC'S
RELATIONS WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. AS DURING THE
JANUARY PLENARY DEBATE (REF A), THE EURO-MPS OFFERED ON
THE BEST WAY TO RESPOND TO THE SOVIETS. SOME URGED

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PURSUIT OF DETENTE THROUGH DIALOGUE, WHILE OTHERS MAINTAINED THAT DIALOGUE SHOULD BE COUPLED WITH STIFF MEASURES. THERE WAS STRONG CRITICISM OF FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE US FROM THE GAULLISTS. HOWEVER, THE GENERAL VIEW WAS THAT EUROPE SHOULD SUPPORT THE US BUT ON AN INDEPENDENT BASIS. TO DO SO, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE EC TO DEVELOP A COMMON POLICY WHICH IS MORE ACTIVE RATHER THAN REACTIVE OR DEFENSIVE. SUCH A POLICY SHOULD ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE LONGER TERM RATHER THAN THE IMMEDIATE SHORT TERM.

5. IN REPLY TO THE CRITICISM OF TAGGING ALONG BEHIND THE US, JENKINS SAID IT WAS NOT A MATTER OF FOLLOWING THE US BUT RECOGNIZING THAT THE US HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE. HIS REJOINDER THAT "IT WOULD BE A PERVERSE REACTION WHEN THE WORLD HAS BECOME MORE DANGEROUS TO SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM THE US" WAS ROUNDLY APPLAUDED.

6. COMMENT: THE FRUSTRATION OF THE EURO-MPS WAS PERHAPS BEST EXPRESSED BY BELGIAN MP NOTHOMB (EPP) WHO TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE VERY LIMITED COMMUNITY RESPONSE WAS AN ACCURATE MEASUREMENT OF THE COMMUNITY'S CAPACITY TO ACT AS AN ENTITY AND THE PARLIAMENT SHOULD WORK TO EXPAND THIS CAPACITY.
ENDERS

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